

## MURDER CHARGED AGAINST AUTOISTS

Second-Degree Indictments  
Issued Against Five Owing  
to Miss Helms' Death.

DEFENDANTS YOUNG MEN  
BETWEEN 21 AND 25

Prosecution Believes Young Men  
Were Drinking and Operated  
Machine Recklessly.

Murder in the second degree is the charge preferred by the grand jury today against the five occupants of an automobile which struck and killed Miss Alberta C. Helms, a nurse at Cal-linger Hospital, who was walking along 16th street extended in company with Dr. Mack of the hospital staff. The tragedy occurred Sunday evening, April 11.

The accused, aged between twenty-one and twenty-five years, are Robert L. Pearson, Jr., the chauffeur, and James C. Watson, William C. Kelly, John L. Callan and William H. Tayan. The young men are at liberty on bonds of \$5,000 each.

The indictment is in six counts, one charging that the defendants maliciously assaulted Miss Helms by striking her with the automobile and inflicting a mortal wound. Other counts are made to meet the exigencies of the testimony, charging that Pearson was operating the machine and the others aiding and abetting.

Says All Are Principals.

The theory of the prosecution is that the young men were drinking and recklessly operated the machine. It is also claimed that each of the passengers became a principal in the alleged crime under section 805 of the code, because they joined in, agreed to and encouraged the reckless driving, it is asserted. This is said to be the first time in this district when a charge of second degree murder has been made by a grand jury for a homicide resulting from an automobile collision. Heretofore the charge has been manslaughter, but owing to what he regarded as extremely aggravating circumstances, United States Attorney Leskey presented the matter to the grand jury with the view of securing an indictment for the higher crime.

Husbands Are Indicted.

Thirteen alleged recreant husbands were indicted today by the grand jury. Those accused of non-support are: Foster Bryant, Luther Spencer, James Irvine, Angus A. Powell, James K. Bryant, Asa C. Holladay, Olney H. Morgan, Harold W. Burdette, Frank M. Boyd, Albert Stahl, Walter R. Smith, John Gray and George W. Maschauer. Others indicted and the charges against them are: Randall Scott, grand larceny; Wade H. Hutchinson, fornication; Viola Washington and Harrison Davis, adultery; Shadrach M. Robinson, Claude Payne and William Johnson, depredation; Fred Wright, housebreaking and larceny; Ellsworth W. Henderson, John Dine; Albert Cobb and George Mount, grand larceny; and William G. Williams, receiving stolen property.

Mohammedanism Topic of Address.

Following a brief business meeting of the Churchman's League in the Highland apartments last night, Frank E. Johnson of the National Geographic Society addressed the members of that organization on "Campfire Talks of Mohammedanism."

Commutes Bank President's Sentence.

President Wilson today commuted to a year and a day the seven-year sentence of William L. Norton, convicted of misappropriation of the funds of the old American National Bank of Bartlesville, Okla., of which he was president.

## NO NEW YORK MAN FOR G. O. P. LEADER

Factional Situation in State  
Precludes Possibility, One  
Authority Contends.

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## RAID BIRD ISLANDS TO GET FEATHERS

Poachers Visit Colony in Ha-  
waiian Group, Coast Guard  
Officer Reports.

WHITE ALBATROSS CHIEF  
SUFFERER, HE DECLARES

First Lieut. W. H. Munter Relates  
Pitiful Conditions Found by  
Himself and Men.

"Dead birds were seen in piles of ten and fifteen, and sometimes as many as forty or fifty in a pile. At first we attributed this enormous number of dead birds to some epidemic or disease, but soon it dawned upon us that poachers had again raided the island for feathers."

"Each dead bird was found to have the breast feathers missing. All other feathers remained. Only the breast and belly feathers had been taken."

The tragedy in the bird colony of Laysan Island in the Hawaiian group is told in the supplementary report to coast guard headquarters here of First Lieut. W. H. Munter of the coast guard cutter Thetis, following a cruise of the bird islands of Hawaii. Besides relating the pitiful conditions found on Laysan, Lieut. Munter describes bird life on Bird or Nihoa Island, French Frigate shoals, Lisianski Island, Ocean Island and Laysan Island. Lieut. Munter, second officer on the Thetis, shows himself an amateur naturalist of considerable qualification.

"The white or Laysan albatross was the chief sufferer," continues Lieut. Munter, describing conditions on Laysan Island, "next the black-footed albatross with the frigate bird and blue-faced booby following in order of the number found killed. Between 150,000 and 200,000 birds were found lying in heaps in all parts of the island. 'All of them were found on their backs, with only the breast feathers missing. In the majority of cases the

feathers had been pulled out, but in some instances knives had been used and the breasts had been cut away from the bodies of the birds. It was a most distressing sight to see so many fine birds rotting away."

Describes Bird Life.

Birds, birds, birds—thousands of them on each of the islands visited, millions of them in all—black-foot and Laysan albatross, blue-faced and white-faced boobies, Christmas Island and wedge-tail, shearwater, noddies, gray-back, sooty and white tern, frigate birds, Laysan finch, curlew were observed, and Lieut. Munter tells of their habits like a bird man rather than a navigator.

"On returning to the beach after a hot and tiresome climb," records Lieut. Munter, describing one of the strange experiences of the cruise, "we found the first cutter badly broken on the port side amidships, so that it could not be used to take us out of the island. A heavy roller had picked it up and suddenly dropped it on its bludge, breaking five ribs, three struts of planking and the gunwale. This boat was launched through the surf and taken in tow by one of the other boats. The surf was too heavy for a small boat to land and get us at this time, so we had to jump one by one from a low cliff into the sea during a quiet time, and swim off to it, and thus returning safely to the ship. The co-swain, who had injured his leg, was placed in a life preserver, lowered from the cliff and hauled by line to the small boat."

On Bird Island the investigators found the heights so sheer, offering no foothold, that access was obtained only by ropes lowered from the tops of the cliffs.

"Climbing the slopes was rough work, and required careful treading to prevent stepping on birds which hid under the thick bush growth, in shallow holes, and refused to move out of the way. These birds, known as the wedge-tail shearwater, made peculiar moaning noises and cut-like calls, and were usually in pairs."

Touch Frigate Bird.

A frigate bird, on Bird Island, allowed them to approach close enough to touch her with their hands. The nest, on top of a low bush, consisted chiefly of a platform of sticks crudely made. One egg, fallen through the nest, was caught in a thick network of branches of the bush below the nest. The mother bird simply laid another egg to take the place of the egg lost.

Sooty terns, in ever increasing numbers as they ascended, hovered in swarms over the heads of the investigators who had disturbed them from their nesting sites. Each pair had but a single egg laid, usually on the bare ground on the lee side of a tuft of grass. The young of the Laysan Albatross, encountered on a level of about 500 feet up, were sturdy-looking in their pin feathers, standing upright on their

heels. The Laysan finch, yellow-breasted, were fearless and inquisitive, following the party everywhere it went. "One thing noticed on Bird Island," he adds, "was the small amount of trouble taken by sea birds in the building of their nests. In fact, except for the assembling of a few twigs, leaves, or a feather or two, no other evidence of a nest was discovered. Some eggs were deposited on the bare ground. Where the tops of the bushes were used for nesting sites, only a frail platform of twigs and small sticks were used."

"Some of the albatross allowed us to stand or sit down alongside of them without seeming to mind us being so near to them a bit. All of the birds on this island could be approached near enough to be captured with the hands, excepting the finches and the plovers."

Birds That Cannot Fly.

Of the Laysan rail, Lieut. Munter records: "These curious little birds cannot fly. Their wings are underdeveloped, probably through lack of use for generations past. They are bold and fearless, also very inquisitive and voracious. One was seen breaking into a fern's egg and greedily eating of the contents when the fern returned very angry. The tiny rail paid no attention to the fern, but continued with its repast."

There were rats on Ocean Island. Sixteen were counted, despite their shyness. They were suspected to be a great family.

Describing conditions on Laysan Island, following the raid, Lieut. Munter says the albatross were very shy, and would not permit them to come close. He observed hunting of eggs with young chicks in them that were never hatched. Evidently, from this, he observes, the poachers made their raid about the time the young were well developed in embryo.

"Half a hundred yards from the beach were discovered what appeared to be three graves," records the report. "There were three head stones buried in the sand, consisting of slabs of phosphate or limestone rock. One of these stones had a piling fence surrounding

it in the form of a rectangle. The one next to it had simply a rectangle of heavy timber surrounding it, while the third was without any wood at all. "There were no inscriptions or marks on the stones. They were not there when the Thetis party visited the island last September."

Probably marking a tragedy of the poaching party, it is suggested.

## FINDINGS SUBMITTED IN POLICE UNIFORMS PROBE

Committee's Report Taken Up at  
Commissioners' Meeting, But  
Not Acted Upon.

Findings of the special committee appointed to investigate the methods of the police department in awarding contracts for uniforms were submitted to the District Commissioners today. The report was taken up at a board session, but not acted upon. It may be several days before the matter finally is disposed of.

The committee, consisted of Capt. Roger G. Powell, assistant engineer, commissioner; Roger J. Whitford, assistant corporation counsel, and Daniel J. Donovan, deputy auditor, was appointed following discovery by the Commissioners that for the past nine years Fechtelmeier Sons of Cincinnati had been given a monopoly of the business of supplying the police department with uniforms, bids of other firms not being considered.

Police inspectors, captains and lieutenants, composing the committee that awarded the contracts for uniforms, were summoned before the committee, while representatives of Fechtelmeier Sons and other firms also testified. The testimony, comprising 600 typewritten pages, was submitted to the Commissioners along with the report.

W. R. Burrows of Belle Plaine, Kan., owns a pitchfork made on the day of George Washington's election to the presidency.

A camera small enough to be swallowed, and to photograph the interior of the stomach, has been invented by a Danish surgeon.

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By John Peelo

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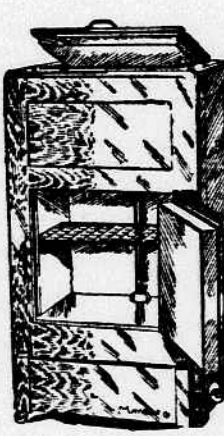
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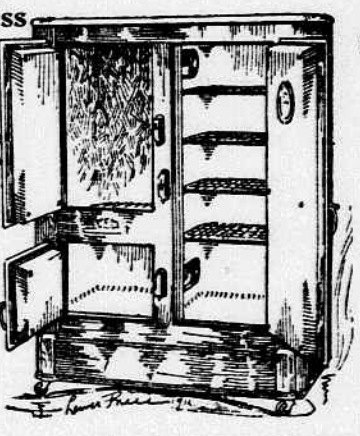
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